

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Applicant has amended claim 33, 35 and 36. Claims 1-32 and claim 34 have been withdrawn from consideration. Favorable reconsideration of this application is, consequently, earnestly solicited in view of the following remarks.

Claims 33, 34 and 36 were rejected by Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Examiner alleged that that the original description failed to provide support for the claimed gap range between 50-180 degrees. Claims 33 and 35 have been amended to claim a gap between greater than 50 degrees and less than 180 degrees.

The original description provides support for a gap of less than 180 degrees on page 6, line 16. Clearly, the sentence that “The inside diameter of saddle fitting 11...having gap of less than 180” from page 6, lines 15-16 of the specification clearly encompasses the subject claimed features of “gap measuring between greater than 50° and less than 180°,” in independent claim 33 and other subject claims. Thus, NO NEW MATTER HAS BEEN ENTERED IN THE APPLICATION, since the originally filed specification encompasses the subject claimed features.

Since amended independent claim 33 and 35 claim a gap less than 180 degrees, applicant believes that amended independent claims 33 and 36, and dependent claim 35 are allowable over Examiner’s section 112 rejection. Thus removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

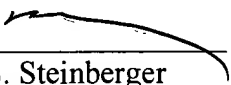
Claims 33, 35 and 36 were also objected because of informalities. Claims 33, 35 and 36 have been amended to change “a” to “said” to correct the informalities, thus Applicant respectfully requests removal of the objection.

Claims 33, 35 and 36 were also rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grainger General Catalog. Applicant has amended independent claims 33 and 36 to claim a gap between greater than 50 degrees and less than 180 degrees. Applicant believes that amended independent claims 33 and 36 and dependent claim 35 are allowable over Examiner's 102(b) rejection.

The detailed description of the present application describes a gap of less than 180 degrees on page 6, line 16 which provides support for a gap between greater than 50 degrees and less than 180 degrees as claimed in amended claim 33, 35 and 36. Additionally, since the Grainger reference includes a gap of 50 degrees, and amended claims 33 and 36 claim a gap greater than 50 degrees, Applicant believes that claims 33, 35 and 36, as amended, overcome the rejection. Thus, removal of the §102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing considerations, it is respectfully urged that claims 33, 35 and 36 be allowed. Such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to contact the attorney at the below listed number.

Respectfully Submitted;


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Date

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